

Appl. No. : **10/072,401**
Filed : **February 6, 2002**

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Exhibits and/or Demonstrations

None

Identification of Claims Discussed

All then currently pending Claims 1-13

Identification of Prior Art Discussed

WO 99/64997 (Aristocrat Leisure Industries) and
US 6,188,427 (Buxton et al)

Proposed Amendments

A variety of proposed amendments were discussed. Agreement was not reached as to amendments which would place the claims in a condition ready for allowance.

Principal Arguments and Other Matters

The Applicant's representative presented arguments that the background scene which is at least partially viewable through composite game symbols having transparent carrier portions is not taught or suggested by the combined art of reference.

Results of Interview

Agreement was not reached as to claim language the Examiners believed would be allowable.

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REMARKS

The Applicants would first like to thank Examiner Xuan M. Thai and Examiner Michael O'Neill for the courtesy of conducting a personal interview with the Applicants' representative James W. Ausley. During the interview, the teachings of the primary reference cited in the Office Action, WO 99/64997 (Aristocrat) as well as the teachings of the supplemental reference US 6,188,427 (Buxton et al) were reviewed. The Applicants note that WO '997 teaches a spinning reel game including a pay line indicator, such as a lightning bolt or set of footprints which in certain embodiments are at least partially transparent. The Applicants also note that any proper background scene of the WO '997 reference lies about the periphery of the spinning reels and is not discernable behind or underlying the spinning reels themselves. In certain embodiments, the WO '997 reference shows slight gaps between adjacent reels however these gaps are of uniform shading and do not constitute a scene of any type.

The Applicants particularly note that the spinning reels themselves which define winning or losing combinations indicated by the one or more pay lines are opaque and only certain portions of the pay line indicators can be considered transparent. In contrast, the Applicants hereby amend the claims to more clearly recite that the reels of the claimed invention comprise composite symbols which define active components of the spinning reel game to provide for various combinations of the composite symbols at least some of the combinations being winning combinations and wherein each composite symbol comprises a carrier portion and a game symbol portion and wherein at least certain of the carrier portions are rendered transparent to enable a background scene to be viewed through the carrier portion (Claim 1 as currently amended). Thus the composite symbols of the Applicants' claimed invention are the active components of the spinning reel game which define winning (or losing) combinations and not pay line indicators delineating selected combinations of the game symbols. Further, the background scene of the Applicants' claimed invention is at least partially viewable through portions of the spinning reels which feature is absent in the teachings of WO '997 when combined with Buxton et al '427.

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SUMMARY

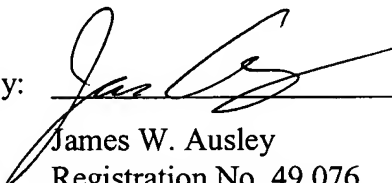
From the foregoing, the Applicant believes that the subject application is now in a condition ready for allowance and respectfully requests prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability. The Applicant believes that this paper is fully responsive to the objections and/or rejections made by the Examiner in the Office Action. However, should there remain any further impediments to the allowance of this application that might be resolved by a telephone conference and/or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-indicated telephone number.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 6/2/05

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